

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 15 February 2017

At the DoC Offices, 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn

Commencing at 6.30 pm

1. Present:

Councillors: Trevor Isitt (Chair), Malcolm Gilbert, Denis Kelliher, Craig Maylam, Bruce Kelly, Alan Strong, Ron Stuart, Charles Smith, Phillip Musson, Peter Robinson

Staff: Rod Cullinane, Steve Terry, Debbie Ambler, Dirk Barr, Ryton Barr

Public: Dave Denton, Paul Hodgson, Steve McNeill

2. Apologies:

Councillors: Ken Lee, John Cumberpatch

Staff: Tony Hawker, Scott Pearson, Emily Arthur-Moore

"That the apologies be accepted."

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Maylam

CARRIED

Cr Isitt welcomed Cr Musson (as a co-opted member to the NC F&G Council) and public attendees.

6a Presentation of the Ian "Mac" McCrory Trophy

Cr Isitt introduced the 2016 recipient, Dave Denton, who has been heavily involved in the Take A Kid Fishing event.

D Denton accepted the Trophy on behalf of the TAKF fraternity and spoke of the upward trend of children who are interested and taking up the sport.

3. Notification of General Business

Dispensation for Fishing – R Cullinane

4. Health and Safety Update

There were no H&S incidents to report.

5a. Minutes from Previous Meeting:

"That the minutes from 14th December 2016 be accepted".

Confirmed

Under 9A – Toilets Lake Coleridge – it was reported that a meeting was to be held with the Selwyn District Council in which the Mayor was keen to support the Fish and Game case for toilets at some popular high country lakes.

5b. Matters Arising

Items discussed from 14th December 2016 Meeting:

1. a. Discount Licence Fee for Wheelchair and Blind Anglers – R Cullinane to discuss with R Sowman about this type of discount and that it possibly be aligned with the junior licence fee.
2. b. Nga Tahu Representative to NC F&G Council – R Cullinane reported the appointment was close to being finalised.

Items to be taken off the Action Sheet

24th August 2016 –

- Hunting and Harvest Ethics – Cr Maylam invited to attend Gamebird Advisory Committee meeting

14th December 2016 –

- Ask J McCrory to present Ian “Mac” McCrory Trophy
- ECAN/NCFG Councillor to Councillor meeting to be arranged
- McIntosh’s fishing area
- Cr Maylam attendance to Gamebird Advisory Committee meeting
- Hunting stand claims – advise Wellington

6. Public Session

Fish Screens – P Hodgson raised concerns regarding the lack of consensus and decision making between CSI / NCF&G / ECAN regarding fish screens and their effectiveness. He stated that all fish should remain in the river system and, if removed be replaced. P Hodgson wanted Fish and Game to have a clear stand regarding fish screens.

It was suggested that before any improvements could be made to existing fish screens that this could not be done until current consents were up for renewal.

Cr Isitt thanked P Hodgson for his input and that the matter would be discussed fully in General Business.

S McNeill questioned the state of the Fish and Game web site and the NC page. R Cosgrove replied Fish and Game were transitioning to a new web site. He questioned the lack of media releases also.

7. Meeting Business

7a i Fishing Club Competition Dispensation

- Papanui Workingmen’s Club – 24th & 25th March 2017.

“That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the Papanui Workingmen’s Club fishing competition on the condition that any tagged brown trout be photographed and released and this be accepted at weigh in. That no dead tagged brown trout be accepted at weigh in”.

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

- New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association – 4th March 2017

"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association fishing competition".

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Maylam

CARRIED

7a ii Support for Documentary Project

A financial contribution was sought in the marketing of a documentary project covering the introduction of Brown Trout into New Zealand 150 years ago. R Cosgrove explained the footage could be used for training purposes and that on the film's release, a celebration could be held to mark the 150th anniversary in October 2017.

"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support costs of \$600.00 towards costs for marketing of the documentary.

Moved: Cr Kelliher

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

7a iii Rangers Fishing Competition

"That the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the Rangers Fishing Competition to be held on Monday 13th March 2017 with a backup date of Tuesday 28th March 2017".

Moved: Cr Stuart

Seconded: Cr Kelly

CARRIED

7a iv Rakaia River Enhancement Proposal – Potential at Rakaia Bully Creek

D Barr spoke to his report. Landowner, J Schober has offered a series of ponds on her land situated on the south side of the Rakaia River and is very supportive on an enhancement programme for future generations.

Local hut holders have planted salmon ova in the shingles of the creek for a couple of years now with 1,200 tagged brown trout being released as part of the Lowland and Sea Run Brown Trout Research Programme.

It is recommended that 30,000 "A" grade 50 gram smolt which are a surplus to stock from mid February 2017, be imprinted to the site and then released at 1 year of age from the creek. If supported these stocks would be reared until July and then allowed to migrate down Bully Creek into the Rakaia River.

However the cost of fish food associated with keeping the smolt four months longer would be \$2,400.00 for 600kgs of food. This amount has not been budgeted for.

The Council supports this proposal and recommends sponsorship proposal letters be sent to the Rakaia River Fishing Promotions and North Rakaia Huts Association. This support however does not include the additional food costs.

"That Council considers and endorses the proposal to imprint excess smolt into Bully Creek to take effect before the end of February 2017.

That staff explore external sponsorship for future annual releases of "A" grade class smolt at the Bully Creek site".

Moved: Cr Isitt

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

It was suggested that Councillors visit Bully Creek in conjunction with the CPW visit currently being organised.

7b i. Pheasant Farm Incubator Supply

After discussion, Cr Musson has lent three incubators for the programme.

7b ii. Development of McIntosh's

McIntosh's proposed development as presented is seen as important facility, attracting visitors and fishing licence holders locally and from around the world. Concept discussions and support has taken place with regional park staff but need ECAN to initiate and support the development, formulate a strategy and facilitate appropriate funding. In general discussion it was decided that if ECAN would not support the development of McIntosh's, then it would not be progressed further by Fish and Game.

"That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support in principal the proposal for the development of McIntosh's and the proposal be tabled at the August 2017 Commissioner/Councillor meeting between ECAN and Fish and Game."

Moved: Cr Isitt Seconded: CARRIED

D Ambler to agenda for August 2017 ECAN/NCF&G meeting.

7b iii. Confirmation of Council meeting Dates 2017

Confirmed as: 22 March (OWP & Budget meeting), 19th April, 21st June, 16th August, 18th October, 13 December (AGM & Council meeting).

7b iv. ECAN Councillors and NCF&G Councillor Meeting

Agenda items were confirmed.

The following points were made in general discussion regarding the effectiveness of fish screens;

- ECAN staff not currently qualified to check fish screens;
- Hand over monitoring of fish screens to a third party who have expertise in this area;
- Require a comprehensive presentation with a clear outline of what F&G are asking for and suggested solutions to give to ECAN ;
- That a Fish and Game Policy on fish screens be completed.

7b v. Eyede Report on Licence Sales

A brief discussion about the correlation of sales to poor fishing seasons was had.

8. Reports**8b. Staff Report**

- **Grasmere P&E Ltd** – original resource consent hearing denying the taking and use of water from Cass Stream has been overturned by the Environment Court. An appeal of this decision to the High Court has now been lodged by Ecan and Forest & Bird.

- **1215 – Lowland River Advocacy** – Scoping in liaison with DoC and Selwyn District Council for work to be carried out at Powells Road was ready to be presented.
- Snake Creek – ready to apply for funding. Cr Strong was commended for his recent radio interview on the Selwyn River. The issue of farmers' irrigation/water take consents and drying waterways and how best to manage them be placed on the ECAN/NCF&G Councillor agenda for their August 2017 meeting. D Ambler to complete.

8e. Fresh Waters Programme

It was reported that the Trust members were currently being finalised. The only direct link remaining would be that the Chairman of NCF&G would be a trustee. That a special family fishing day is planned for Sunday 12th March at the Groynes, with the focal point being a fish release which will be advertised. Volunteers are sought to assist on the day.

8f. Building Update

R Cullinane reported there was a shortfall in funds to complete the landscaping, driveways, paths and steps and that an application to NZC to use reserves was required and this needed NC Council support. Approximately \$50 to \$60,000.00 was being sought from Reserves. Quotes were currently being obtained to enable an application to be made.

That North Canterbury Fish and Game Council support the application to use Reserves to complete landscaping, driveways, paths and steps”.

Moved: Cr Kelly

Seconded: Cr Kelliher

CARRIED

8g. Gamebird Advisory Committee Minutes

1. Junior Shooters Activities and Involvement at Handloaders

Sponsorship was sought for a group of young shooters from two local high schools which would include 4 x training sessions with 12 students per class, per school culminating in a competition between the two schools at the end of the course.

Discussion followed on the need to target a wider audience of young shooters and on how to use the new premises for education and promotion for young hunters.

“That the proposal be declined in its current format and that a more defined proposal be presented to the Council.”.

Moved: Cr Maylam

Seconded: Cr Stuart

CARRIED

2. Duck Calling Competition

The meeting decided it was a good idea to get involved in the Springston Duck Calling competition by way of sponsorship for a prize.

“That North Canterbury Fish and Game support the Springston Duck Calling competition by donating a spot draw prize on the evening to the value of \$200.00”.

Moved: Cr Robinson

Seconded: Cr Isitt

CARRIED

9 General Business

9a. Email from I Dempsey Regarding Dispensation

An email was received from I Dempsey seeking dispensation for rest home residents wanting to do trout fishing but had access issues due to being wheelchair bound.

After discussion, it was decided that staff discretion would be used on this matter.

D Ambler to respond stating F&G are currently negotiating council access to Lake Rotokohatu and would use their case as an example.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10.pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____